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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,416	11/14/2001	Hiroaki Masaoka	111107	7042
25944	7590	07/20/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			TUGBANG, ANTHONY D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3729	
DATE MAILED: 07/20/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No. 09/987,416	Applicant(s) MASAOKA, HIROAKI 	
	Examiner A. Dexter Tugbang	Art Unit 3729	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) A. Dexter Tugbang, Examiner. (3) _____
 (2) Linda Saltiel (Reg. No. 51,122), for Applicant(s). (4) _____

Date of Interview: 19 July 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
 If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: of record.


Identification of prior art discussed: of record.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.


A. DEXTER TUGBANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

 Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant(s) faxed in a proposed amendment, which is attached herein and was discussed during the interview. The examiner noted that the amendment appeared to overcome the claim objections in the last office action (paragraph 4 of the Non-Final rejection dated 5/14/04). With respect to the prior art, the applicant(s) urged that Verge does not teach movable elements because the wires 4 of Verge cannot be read as movable elements. The examiner maintained that the wires 4 of Verge can be read as movable elements because Verge (at col. 10, lines 24+) discusses the connection between the female terminals 6 and the male terminals 71. To make this electrical connection would require the wires to be movable. The applicant(s) to file a subsequent response formally for consideration.

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 09/987,416 First Named Applicant: Hiroaki MASAOKA
Examiner: A. Tugbang Art Unit: 3729 Status of Application: NOT Final

Tentative Participants:

(1) Examiner Tugbang (2) Linda Saltiel
(3) _____ (4) _____

Proposed Date of Interview: July 19, 2004 Proposed Time: 10:00 AM (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☒ Telephonic (2) ☐ Personal (3) ☐ Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, provide brief description:

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>Obj.</u>	<u>Claim 2</u>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) <u>§102(b) Rej.</u>	<u>Claim 2</u>	<u>U.S. Patent No. 4,965,928</u> <u>(Verge)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Continuation Sheet Attached

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

See attached proposed amendments to the claims

Nowhere does Verge describe or suggest movable elements disposed respectively in at least all to-be-connected female terminals into which the male terminals are to be respectively inserted in a correct connection condition, in a state where each of the movable elements is moved from a waiting position to a conduction position by an insertion operation of corresponding ones of the male terminals.

Verge does not describe nor suggest a movable element that is moved from a waiting position by an insertion operation of corresponding ones of the male terminals. Rather, Verge shows female terminals 6 fixed on the ends of the respective wires 4. The wires 4 are not a movable element. In fact, the wires 4 and female terminals 6 are held stationary by a jig 75. According to Verge, the jig 75 includes several longitudinally extending slots 83 in the upper surface thereof for receiving the respective wires 4. More specifically, the grooves or slots 83 define sidewalls 84 which are undercut near their forward ends to provide seats 85 for the terminals 6. The undercut in the walls 84 is such that the terminal seats 85 contain the terminals 6 captive in both a vertical and lateral direction when inserted and seated therein as depicted in Figs. 8 and 9. See col. 11, lines 11-19 of Verge. Moreover, nowhere does Verge describe or suggest a conduction test device including conductive portions, wherein when the movable elements are moved to the conduction position, the conductive portions are in contact with the movable elements, respectively, and when all of the movable elements in the to-be-connected female terminals are moved to the conduction positions, the conductive portions become conductive.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____

NOTE:

This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.



Linda M. Saltiel

(Examiner/SPE Signature)

Registration No. 51,122

Application Serial No. 09/987,416
Attorney Docket No. 111107

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Withdrawn) A method of confirming connection of a terminal connecting portion in which a plurality of male terminals are inserted respectively into a plurality of female terminals to make an electrical connection therebetween,

said method comprising the steps of:

disposing electrically conductive movable elements in at least all to-be-connected female terminals into which said male terminals are to be respectively inserted in a correct connection condition, and

each of said movable elements being moved from a waiting position to a conduction position by an insertion operation of corresponding one of said male terminals,

detecting a state where all of said movable elements in said to-be-connected female terminals are moved respectively to said conduction positions by a conduction test device having conductive portions which, when said movable elements are moved to said conduction positions, are in contact with said movable elements, respectively.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for confirming connection of a terminal connecting portion in which a plurality of male terminals are inserted respectively into a plurality of female terminals to make an electrical connection therebetween,

said apparatus comprising:

electrically conductive movable elements, and

a conduction test device; wherein

said movable elements are disposed respectively in at least all to-be-connected female terminals into which said male terminals are to be respectively inserted in a correct connection

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Attorney Docket No. 111107

condition, in a state where each of said movable elements is moved from a waiting position to a conduction position by an insertion operation of corresponding one of said male terminals;

said conduction test device includes conductive portions, wherein ~~which~~, when said movable elements are moved to said conduction position, said conductive portions are in contact with said movable elements, respectively; and

when all of said movable elements in said to-be-connected female terminals are moved to said conduction positions, said ~~conduction~~ conductive portions become conductive.

3. (Original) The apparatus for confirming connection of a terminal connecting portion according to claim 2, wherein

each of said movable elements comprises:

a conductor which is to be in contact with corresponding one of said conductive portions of said conduction test device, and

an insulator integrating with said conductor, which is to be in contact with and pushed by corresponding one of said male terminals.

4. (Original) The apparatus for confirming connection of a terminal connecting portion according to claim 2, wherein

said movable elements are disposed in only said to-be-connected female terminals of all said female terminals, and

said conductive portions of said conduction test device are placed to be in contact with said movable elements, respectively.

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5. (Original) The apparatus for confirming connection of a terminal connecting portion according to claim 2, wherein

said movable elements are disposed in all said female terminals including said to-be-connected female terminals, and

said conductive portions of said conduction test device are placed to be in contact with said movable elements in only said to-be-connected female terminals, respectively.

6. (Original) The apparatus for confirming connection of a terminal connecting portion according to claim 2, wherein

said male terminals are respectively disposed on bus bars in a junction block, and

said female terminals are respectively disposed in connectors of a printed circuit board of an electronic control unit which is to be mounted on said junction block.